

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2407

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY, EEC

SUBJ: CYPRUS FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES EC-9 INITIATIVE

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO FONMIN CHRISG0HIDES, GOC WELCOMES EC INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS PROVIDED IT DOES NOT SIDETRACK NEGOTIATION UNDER WALDHEIM. MAKARIOS HAS TOLD EC THAT HE WILL ACCEPT BI-ZONALITY CONTINGENT ON REDUCTION OF TURKISH AREA AND PROGRESS FOR REFUGEES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, HOWEVER, HE ADMITITLY AGAINST MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT
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ON ACCEPTANCE AT THIS TIME. GOC HOPES EC WILL ACT QUICKLY. IF

PROGRESS IS REGISTERED DURING NIUGUST, FONMIN WILLING CONSIDER
RECOMMENDING AGAINST INSCRIPTION OF SPECIAL CYPRUS AGENDA ITEM
IN UNGA. CHRISTOPHIDES CONSIDERS THAT WITH HELSINKI, EC INITIATIVE AN
D
UNEXPECTEDLY POSITIVE RESULTS OF VIENNA III, PAST WEEK HAS
PRODUCED IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. IN
GOC VIEW IT REMAINS BE SEEN WHETHER TURKISH GOVERNMENT
STRONG ENOUGH TO DO ITS PART. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES AUGUST 4 FOR A RUNDOWN
ON HELSINKI AND EC-9 CYPRUS INITIATIVE. ON
LATTER, CHRISTOPHIDES PROVIDED FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY:

A. ON AKLY 29, KARAMANLIS TOLD MAKARIOS GOG UNDERSTOOD
THERE WAS AN EC-9 CYPRUS INITIATIVE IN THE OFFING. KARAMANLIS
THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA AND URGED MAKARIOS TO GO ALONG.

B. ON JUL A30, CHRISTOPHIDES WAS BRIEFED ON EC-9 THINKING
BY A FOREIGN MINISTER OF ONE OF THE EC COUNTRIES WITH WHOM
HE IS ON PARTICULARLY CLOSE TERMS. UNNAMED FONMIN INFORMED CHRISTOPHI
DES
CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THE NINE WERE THINKING OF PROCEDURE WHEREBY
FOUR "COMMISSIONS" WOULD BE FORMED TO STUDY (1) REFUGEES,
(2) POWERS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, (3) TERRITORIAL ASPECTS
INCLUDING PERCENTAGE UNDER TURKISH ADMINISTRATION AND BIZONAL
VERSUS MILTI-ZONAL, (4) MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. FRIEND
TOLD CHRISTOPHIDES THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FOURTH COMMISSION
INTENDED AS ACCOMMODATION TO TURKISH SENSITIVITIES BUT IT WOULD
NOT BEGIN TO WORK UNTIL FIRST THREE COMMISSIONS WERE WELL ALONG
IN THEIR TASKS.

C. ON JULY 31 ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER MORO FORMALLY MET WITH
KARAMANLIS, MAKARIOS AND DEMIREL, IN THAT ORDER. WITH MAKARIOS MORO
SAID ECPREPARED UNDERTAKE INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS, AND ITALY READY
LEAD THIS. MORO ASKED IF MAKARIOS WOULD ACCEPT EC INITIATIVE AND
WHETHER HE PREPARED ACCEPT BIZONALITY AS STARTING POINT.
ARCHBISHOP REPLIED HE COULD ACCEPT BIZONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR
CYPRUS BASED ON TURKS ADMINISTERING AN AREA ROUGHLY IN
PROPORTION TO POPULATION RATIO "PLUS SOMETHING ADDITIONAL
TO GIVE THEM BREATHING ROOM" PROVIDED (1) EC INITIATIVE
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DID NOT SUPPLANT PRESENT NEGOTIATION UNDER WALDHEIM
AND (2) REFUGEE PROBLEM RESOLVED. MORO ASSURED MAKARIOS
THAT EC INITIATIVE INTENDED TO SUPPORT NOT SUBSTITUTE
FOR THE WALDHEIM TRACK.

D. ON AUGUST 1, MAKARIONS SAW FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT.
SCHMIDT URGED ARCHBISHOP MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT REFLECTING
HIS PRIVATE ACCEPTANCE OF BIZONALITY. SCHMID TERMED TURKISH

RETENTION OF 40 PERCENT OF CYPRUS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE AND SAID HE HAD GOOD INFORMATION THAT TURKEY WOULD SETTLE FOR 28-30 PERCENT. HE EXPRESSED DEEP PERSONAL CONCERN FOR PLIGHT OF REFUGEES AND PROMISED FRG'S FULL ASSISTANCE IN ALLEVIATING THIS. KU SUGGESTED MAKARIOS MIGHT DO MORE TO SUPPORT CLERIDES AND DENKTASH, NOTING THAT SOME OF ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENTS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INDICATING DISPLEASURE WITH GOC NEGOTIATOR. MAKARIOS PARRIED LACO POINT BY SAYING HE ACCUSED IN CYPRUS OF BEING TOO BAOFT. HE AGREED WITH SCHMIDT'S OTHER COMMENTS BUT FLATLY REFUSED CONSIDER PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF BIZONALITY AT THIS TIME.

3. CHRISTOPHIDES NOTED THAT UPSHOT AT HELSINKI HAD BEEN ENDORSEMENT OF EC INITIATIVE BY KARAMANLIS AND MAKARIOS, REPORTEDLY QUALIFIED AND DISTRUSTFUL ACQUIESCENCE ON DEMIREL'S PART. CHRISTOPHIDES THOUGHT TURQ HAD FELT ISOLATED IN HELSINKI AND THAT THEY HAD TRIED TO NOT EXACERBATE THIS BY APPEARING NEGATIVE. HOWEVER, IN CHRISTOPHIDES' OPINION, DEMIREL WAS SUSPICIOUS THAT EC INITIATIVE MIGHT LEAD TO NEW AND DIFFICULT PRESSURES ON HIS ALREADY WEAK GOVERNMENT.

4. CHRISTOPHIDES TOLD ME THAT HE CREDITED USG FOR HAVING STIMULATED EC INITIATIVE. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THIS EVEN THOUGH HE ATTRIBUTED IT TO USG'S OWN INCAPACITY AND RELATIVE DISINTEREST TZ IN WAKE OF TURKISH ARMS CONTROVERSY.

5. CHRISTOPHIDES HOPED EC-9 WOULD MOVE QUICKLY. SPECIFICALLY, HE WISHED THAT EC ACTIVITY WOULD GET UNDERWAY WELL BEFORE AUGUST 19 WHEN HE DEPARTS FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA. GOC POSITIONS IN LIMA AND LATER IN UNGA WOULD DEPEND IN
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LARGE MEASURE ON HOW MUCH EC HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE THEN. IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE WOULD OPPOSE INSCRIPTION OF A SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM ON CYPRUS IN REGULAR SESSION OF UNGA IF PROGRESS WERE EVIDENT BY THEN. (GOC, HE ADDID, WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE ANTICIPATE CYPRUS DISCUSSION IN SPECIAL SESSION UF UNGA).

6. HELSINKI MEETINGS, PROSPECTIVE EC-9 ACTIVITY AND UN-EXPEDITEDLY POSTIVE RESULT OF VIENNA III, ATMOSPHERE AS REGARDS CYPRUS PROBLEM HAD IMPROVED OVER PAST WEEK. HE REMARKED THAT TURKS COULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IF AT THIS JUNCTURE THEY WERE WILLING MAKE A FEW PURELY SYMBOLIC GESTURES TO EASE TENSIONS FURTHER. HE MENTIONED MINOR ADJUSTMENTS OF NICOSIA GREEN LINE TO RESTORE STATUS QUO ANTE AND IMPLEMENTATION

OF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO OPEN NICOSIA AIRPORT TO UN
TRAFFIC.
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